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ADDRESS

Democratic party - Pennsylvania

OF THE

GENERAL COMMITTEE

OF CORRESPONDENCE,

APPOINTED AT A GENERAL MEETING OF THE REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF
THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,]

TO

25-12
THE DEMOCRATIC CITIZENS

OF THE

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION,

1812.

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THE following Address of the General Committee of Correspondence in Pennsylvania, on the subject of the Presidential election, is submitted to the consideration of the people of Maryland. It contains an impartial view of the pretensions of the two candidates nominated for that exalted station.

Upon an attentive perusal of the address, it is believed that nine-tenths of the republicans throughout the Union will not hesitate to decide in favor of Mr. Madison, our present worthy chief magistrate. His pre-eminent talents, unblemished integrity, inflexible virtue and patriotism; his great experience and arduous services in the cause of his country, eminently distinguish him as a fit character to direct the energies of the nation at this important crisis. For more than thirty years his time and talents have been devoted to the services of his country; and in the various and honorable stations which he has filled, his conduct has received the approbation of his fellow citizens. Can a more certain pledge for an able and faithful discharge of the high trust to be reposed in him, be required by any rational being?

The election of Mr. Madison will be supported by the suffrages of those who glory in the Declaration of Independence,—by those who have uniformly supported the neutral, commercial and agricultural rights of the people of the United States,—by the friends of the constitution and republican principles,—and by those who are determined, at the hazard of their lives and fortunes, to transmit unimpaired to posterity, the Independence which has been acquired by the blood and treasure of their ancestors.

Maryland, 16th October, 1812.

TO THE
DEMOCRATIC CITIZENS

OF THE
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

AT a full and general meeting of the republican members of the legislature of Pennsylvania, relative to the Presidential election, held at Lancaster, March 7, 1812, the subscribers were appointed as a general committee to correspond with the other committees appointed throughout the state, to address the electors, and fill any vacancy which might take place on the electoral ticket agreed upon and recommended at the above meeting. In pursuance of the duties, thus honorably imposed upon us, and not from presumption or forwardness, we now address you. The confidence, founded on experience, which we have in your integrity of principle, attachment to republicanism, and devotion to the best interests of your country, have heretofore determined us to remain silent; nor do we know whether we should even now have addressed you, but for the extraordinary efforts which are making, and the unprecedented conduct pursuing, to uproot your principles, to league you with federalism, and wean your affectionate esteem from the present chief magistrate of the Union. To effect these objects, addresses and circular letters, from a neighboring state, have been sent into every part of this state, by every established course, and through every possible channel which industry and wealth could open. Not content with thus assailing the republican character, and thus endeavoring to divide the republican party of Pennsylvania, another and a still more unusual and exceptionable mode of electioneering has been resorted to. Self-created committees, composed principally of the officers of government of a neighboring state, have travelled our state up and down, and traversed it in every direction to seduce our citizens from the standard of principle, and induce them to rally round a candidate of whom they know little or nothing but the name, and whose only hope of success rests on a party which has not yet acquired even a denomination. This union is one of those anomalous associations with which our country has more than once been cursed, the dangers of which cannot better be described than in an extract of an address of the republican members of the legislature of Pennsylvania on the Presidential election in 1804. We could hardly have hoped that a case so strikingly in point could have been found on the file of precedent.

“While federalism preponderated in Pennsylvania, no overtures of union or reconciliation were made; but, on the contrary, a system of expulsion of every man, who differed from them in opinion from all offices of profit or of honor, was openly avowed, and pursued with unremitting diligence. Foiled, however, at length

they invite to union and harmony! But, listen not to their syren song of pretended friendship and reconciliation, designed only to lure you to destruction! While, traitor like, they seem to offer you the hand of cordiality, they are watching an unguarded moment to stab you to the heart. To evince their insincerity, you need only observe the currents of abuse, violence, calumny, and detraction, which are incessantly issuing from the federal prints, against Mr Jefferson, [and Mr Madison,] from every quarter of the Union.

"Citizens, beware of their artful wiles! beware more especially, of pretended republicans, men of third party principles! Beware of the "*Union of honest men!*"

"If you turn your eyes to our sister state of New York, you there behold an intriguing, ambitious individual fomenting division among the republicans, that he may rise into office amidst the ruin of those principles he once professed. Happy were it for Pennsylvania, had she not characters of this description also, equally restless, ambitious, and dissatisfied, because they are not elevated to the highest stations in the government; to which their fellow-citizens have not thought them entitled, either on the ground of principle, patriotism or talents: but who, notwithstanding, are determined to climb into office, in defiance of true republicans, by forming a coalition with federalists. Great exertions were made by these men previously to the last election! great exertions are now making by men professing republicanism, near your government, to bring about this preposterous union, in order to accomplish their own elevation to office, and restore the ancient order of things.

"Pamphlets, tending to this point, addressed to your representatives, are industriously, though covertly, circulated, containing sentiments and doctrines that go to sap the very foundation of republicanism, by bringing into disrepute representative government, and inducing a predilection for aristocratical and monarchical institutions; and tending to excite suspicions and jealousies in the public mind, against the measures of the present and preceding legislatures. Far be it from us fellow-citizens, to excite animosities and discord among you. No: Let peace and social harmony mark the character of Pennsylvania. We ardently wish to inculcate those sentiments, both by precept and example: but at the same time we devoutly deprecate the monstrous connection of federalism, or aristocracy, with republicanism; from the fullest conviction, that such a union would be a certain prelude to it, if not the actual prostration and total ruin, of the republicanism of Pennsylvania. As well might heaven and earth come in contact; as well might fire and water mingle, and the most discordant principles in nature be united, as federalism and republicanism.

"This third party scheme, fellow-citizens, cannot, we presume, have escaped your observation. Scarcely a state in the union, scarcely a county in this state, in which this Hydra has not reared its horrid front: And, though hitherto it has been baffled, it is not yet destroyed.

"This plan appears the dernier resort of the federalists. They well know, that the re-election of Jefferson [Madison] will be likely to place republicanism on so firm a basis, as not to be sapped or shaken, for at least a century to come. Every artifice which human ingenuity can invent; every scheme which deep-rooted enmity can suggest; and every exertion which desperation can prompt, will be combined to prevent his re-election: But, we confidently trust and believe, that we shall again triumph over all their machinations by adhering strictly to the characters recommended to you as electors.

(Signed)

"AARON LYLE, *Chairman.*

JAMES PEARSON, *Secretary.*"

The only candidates now nominated for the Presidency of the United States, are James Madison and De Witt Clinton. Every thing which ingenuity and talent, experience and legal information can adduce in support of Mr. Clinton, is to be found in an address "to the people of the United States," from a "special committee of the city of New York, acting under the authority of the General Committee of Correspondence of the state of New York." That we may meet the question fairly, we purpose briefly and

candidly to examine this address. We know the importance of the subject, and we shall scrupulously adhere to facts. Neither sophistry nor misrepresentation are necessary to subserve the cause of truth or promote the great interests of the republic. The election of a chief magistrate, always a momentous epoch, is now more than ever so, because now we are at war. The courage and resources of the nation should be called forth vigorously and promptly. It is only by waging a vigorous war that we can hope for an honorable and lasting peace. The man who now shall be chosen to preside over the destinies of the nation ought to be a long tried, well-principled, faithful public servant: one whose patriotism has been tested as gold in the furnace; and whose well-regulated and well-stored mind should be the nation's security against rashness or ambition; above all, he should be a citizen known to the whole Union, and confided in with a confidence which should never awaken suspicion.

The first passage in the address which attracts our attention, is the declaration that "the state of New York has, by an open nomination of a candidate for the Presidency, entered its formal protest against the practice of Congressional nominations." The addressers appear to have been apprehensive that this declaration would either not be implicitly credited, or not have the consideration and weight which they were desirous it should have; they therefore, very shortly afterwards repeat "we have said the state of New York has entered its protest against Congressional nominations." In other paragraphs of the address, it is affirmed that the state of New York has nominated De Witt Clinton for the Presidency.

This committee have carefully and sedulously attended to every meeting and movement in the state of New York, and throughout the Union, in relation to the Presidential election, and they have no where seen a "formal protest against the practice of Congressional nominations" by the *state of New York*: nor have they been able, by any diligence or research, to find that the *state of New York* has nominated De Witt Clinton for the Presidency. The last act of the state of New York respecting "Congressional nominations" for the Presidency, was so far from "a formal protest against the practice," that it was a decided approbation of them, by giving a large majority of her votes in 1808, the last Presidential election, for the candidates that had been previously selected by a "Congressional nomination." "The nomination of De Witt Clinton for the Presidency, by the state of New York," is no where to be found. The state of New York has had no convention, to ascertain her opinions; therefore, she neither has, nor can have, made any nomination. Whether she will, or will not, sanction the nomination made "at a meeting of the republican members of the senate and assembly of the state of New York," we presume not to determine. It is not without regret that we have felt ourselves bound thus positively, and upon the best evidence, to rebut the truth of the allegations made by the New York committee. That "the *state of New York* has entered its formal protest against the practice of Congressional nominations," and that the *state of New York* has nominated Mr. De Witt Clinton for the

Presidency, are the main presumptions upon which the New York committee have predicated their hopes of success, and claimed the public vote "in support of the nomination of the Hon. De Witt Clinton for the Presidency of the United States at the ensuing election." We have, we trust, satisfactorily shewn that those presumptions have no foundation in fact, and if we have not shaken the superstructure to its centre, we have certainly so shaken it as to make us cautious how we take the assumptions of the committee for historical facts, and to induce the committee themselves to forgive us, if we "learn wisdom in the school of experience, and distrust those who" make assertions that "shrink from investigation."

No inconsiderable portion of the New York address is taken up in warning the people of the United States to be on their guard against nominations made by members of Congress, for fear they should be acting under "corrupt influence," or even under the influence of "a foreign power." It is true, the addressers declare that "as yet, *we hope* no foreign power has attempted to influence the elections of our chief magistrate;" thus, most uncharitably insinuating that which, thank heaven! can obtain no credence in the country, at least not among republicans. It is matter of pride and exultation to every honest American, that whatever suspicion may have been entertained as to individuals there is no shadow of evidence to induce a belief that Congress has ever acted under corrupt or foreign influence. The whole object of the attack upon "Congressional nominations" is to lessen in public estimation the citizens whom they have nominated. It is a strange expectation to hope to win the suffrages of republicans by insinuating, and that such is their want of integrity or discernment that the men whom they elect, by their voluntary suffrage, are so wicked and unprincipled as to abandon their duty to their constituents and from "corrupt influence" to lay it prostrate at the foot-stool of "a foreign power." It is ungrateful to our feelings to call to your recollection facts which are not honorable to our country, and nothing but the necessity of the case could justify or induce us. If we say aught which shall wound the pride or humble in the dust the vauntings of the committee of New York, they must acknowledge, and the public will do us the justice to recollect, we are not the assailing, we are only the defending, party. The committee of New York having, without "the fear of criticism or censure," attacked, and most unsparingly reprehended the republican members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, because they have nominated Mr. Madison, as a candidate for the Presidency, it will not be considered irregular or foreign to the discharge of our duty if we state a few authentic facts relative to the republican members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of New York, who nominated Mr. Clinton for the same office. If Mr. Madison is to bear all the sins and suspicions laid at the door of those who nominated him, can it be regarded as either ungenerous or unjust, that Mr. Clinton should be loaded with a portion of the crimes and corruption charged by high authority against those who nominated him?

Mr. Clinton was nominated a candidate for the Presidency, by the republican members of the legislature of New York on the 28th May, 1812. That legislature had been adjourned from the 27th March to the 21st May by Governor Tompkins, because, as he declared in his message, "It appears by the Journals of the assembly, that attempts *have been made to corrupt* by BRIBES, four members of that body, to vote for the passage of the bill to incorporate the aforesaid Bank [of America;] and it also appears, by the Journals of the Senate, that an improper attempt has been made to influence one of the Senators to vote for the bill." At a meeting of the republican members held at Albany the same day on which Governor Tompkins prorogued the assembly, it was resolved that for that act he "merits our warmest thanks and the gratitude of his country." This meeting further declared, that the stock of the American Bank, \$6,000,000, was "owned principally by foreigners," and that "representations UNDER OATH have been made of *corrupt attempts* to seduce *several* members of the legislature." These declarations and resolutions were unanimously concurred in by 59 members; other republican members thought, the Governor had acted "hastily and unadvisedly." Our fellow-citizens will bear in mind that the Bank of America was afterwards incorporated by the New York legislature. We have thus as evidence, the official message of Governor Tompkins, the Journals of both houses, and the opinion of a very respectable number of members, to prove that *corrupt attempts were made to bribe and seduce several members of the New York legislature, and that those bribes came out of a fund owned principally by foreigners*, and those foreigners now alien enemies:—Yet this was the legislature, so charged and so suspected, that nominated Mr. De Witt Clinton, and it is a committee emanating from the same source, which cries aloud "to the people of the United States" to take care that their Presidents are not nominated by "corrupt influence," and which with, real or affected, charity expresses a hope that "no foreign power has attempted to influence the elections of our chief magistrate." We forbear all comment and submit the facts to the sober judgments of our fellow-citizens, not doubting but they will duly appreciate the labors of the New York Committee, and the merits, claims and qualifications of their candidate.

The New York Committee having disposed of the Congressional nomination, which they appear to have regarded as the strongest bulwark around Mr. Madison, they proceed to inform the people *why* the next President of the United States should be taken from the state of New York. Before we enumerate the pretensions of the state of New York as arrayed by its Committee we wish to be distinctly understood to protest, in the name of the republicans of Pennsylvania, against any party or any candidate that attempts to sow the seeds of jealousy and distrust among members of the same community, among sister states, who have a common interest and ought to be united by a common bond of affection: On behalf of the republicans of Pennsylvania, and we know we deliver their sentiments, we protest against any arrogance of one state over another, or "urging pretensions and claiming superiority" because

she is larger or more populous: and lastly, for the republicans of Pennsylvania, we solemnly protest against any claims, to the Presidency, or to any public station, except those which are founded on capability, public services, republican principles and attachment to the Union. The following are the claims put in by the Committee, on behalf of the state of New York, to shew "the propriety of its giving the next President to the Union!"

I. Because "now, for the first time," New York has "put forward its claim."

This claim would be equally just, and conclusive as it respects Pennsylvania or any other state in the Union. This is "the first time" that any state has "put forward its claim" to have one of its citizens made President of the United States.

II. Because the state of New York is not the state of Virginia.

"Virginia influence is a bye word" we admit, but it is only "in the Eastern States" among those who make a "bye word" of French influence, and who would make a "bye word" of any body, or any thing, that would promise to raise them to power. They would even make a "bye word" of Mr. De Witt Clinton.

III. Because "the resources and population of New York, place it in the first rank."

At the late Presidential election, New York ranked *with* Massachusetts, and *after* Virginia and Pennsylvania; and no one can charge New York with any delay in "putting forward its claim" when she asks to have the first officer in the Union, so soon as the marshal's return gives her a greater number of votes than any one of her sister states.

IV. Because its local situation makes it "one of the fit depositories of power until the distrust and jealousies between the Northern and Southern states shall have subsided."

If New York hopes to be the depository of power until the jealousy of eastern federalists against southern and western republicans "shall have subsided," she hopes for what we trust no state will ever enjoy—a perpetuity of power.

V. Because she "is a middle state."

New York is not so much "a middle state" as Virginia, against which the addressers *rail* as a *southern* state, whose influence has become "a bye word in the *eastern* states."

VI. Because "she is eminently commercial, and most extensively agricultural."

These claims are not sound: her commerce is founded on British and banking capital. She has not the American, solid specie capital of Pennsylvania, nor is her agriculture more extensive.

VII. Because "she would be likely to hold the balance even."

This committee cannot discover upon what the addressers presume, which can justify an opinion that New York is more "likely to hold the balance even" than any other of her sister states.

VIII. Because it would "conciliate the interests and good wishes of all."

If the New York Committee could only establish this assertion, could only *prove* it to be true, their labors would be at an end, for

certain it is that the people of the United States will elect the man most likely to conciliate their interests and fulfil their wishes.
IX. Because she is a "frontier state."

Virginia has certainly a much greater extent of "frontier" seaboard than New York, and as certainly would have had a much more extensive inland "frontier," but that, let it be recorded and repeated to the honor of Virginia, she voluntarily ceded to the general government the territory now composing the patriotic states of Kentucky and Ohio, and the Indiana and Illinois territories. She set the glorious example of abridging her own power and rank for the general weal. Had not Virginia thus ceded her territory, *her* "resources and population" would have placed her far beyond New York, and in the "first rank." It is ungracious to wish to degrade a state purely for her patriotism, and it is to be regretted that a respectable committee, of any state, should wish to take advantage of such circumstance, "to put forward its claim," even at the expense of the harmony and integrity of the party of which they profess to be members. It cannot be a good cause that requires thus to be advocated.

X. Because it would be "somewhat of personal gratification" to the gentlemen on the committee.

The voting for a President of the United States is discharging too high a duty, and involves too many public considerations, to be done purely to "gratify" any individual or committee.

For the reasons, which we have faithfully detailed and briefly answered, the New York Committee think the next President should be from New York; and New York, they say, wishes Mr. De Witt Clinton. They conclude their appeal by saying, "Gratify us in his election."

If, fellow citizens, these reasons, and the desire personally to *gratify* the New York Committee, shall be so cogent as to overturn all your former opinions, bear away all your former attachments, and make you forgetful of the eminent services, superior talents, and devoted patriotism of your present excellent chief magistrate, then will you give your votes to the electoral ticket, yet to be formed, in favor of De Witt Clinton. But if, as we believe, you regard the reasons given as of little weight, and feel no disposition to bestow "somewhat of personal gratification," at the expense of your country, we are confident you will one and all vote for the republican electoral ticket, unanimously recommended by the republican members of the Pennsylvania legislature, and secure its election by a triumphant majority. Remember the ever worthy to-be-remembered election of 1808.

Of all the reasons, however given and relied upon in the address why Mr. Madison should not be elected, none is labored with so much earnestness and ingenuity, none is considered as of so disqualifying a kind as that he has been recommended by the republican members of Congress: nor is any point more strongly urged in favor of Mr. Clinton than his being recommended by the state of New York. The New York Committee appear not to have known or to have forgotten, or if not forgotten, have carefully kept out of sight, that Mr. Madison has been any where nominated ex-

cept by the members of Congress. It will not be a few minutes misspent, fairly to state the nominations and evidences of public opinion in favor of both these gentlemen for the high office for which they are candidates. This we are the more desirous to do as the New York address highly approves of "Nominations by individual States." "Who" it asks, "should nominate?" and promptly answers "some among the states." Upon this, their own principle and mode of nominating, we are willing to meet the New York Committee.

DE WITT CLINTON has been nominated by the republican members of the *Legislature* of the State of *New York*, which state has twenty-nine VOTES.

He has also been nominated at a private meeting in Lancaster, of nearly twenty persons; among whom, we include the New York traveling Committee that were present. He has also been nominated by a public meeting in York county. Both those meetings were composed of men either avowed federalists or non-descripts, and aliens to the great republican party of Pennsylvania. We had nearly forgotten to mention that at a public meeting in Boston, Mr. *Harrison Gray Otis*, the particular friend of Mr. *Timothy Pickering*, announced Mr. Clinton as a candidate for the Presidency.

JAMES MADISON has been nominated by the republican members of the LEGISLATURE

Of the UNITED STATES.

Of the state of PENNSYLVANIA.

Of the state of VIRGINIA.

Of the state of MASSACHUSETTS.

Of the state of NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Of the state of KENTUCKY.

Of the state of OHIO.

Of the state of NEW JERSEY; and

Of the state of MARYLAND.

Which states have one hundred and nineteen VOTES

These states include some which are called Southern, some Eastern, some Middle, some Frontier, some of the first Rank and most of them sound, healthful, republican states.

DE WITT CLINTON's election is advocated by most of the *Federal* newspapers in the Union, but by scarcely any *Republican* newspaper out of the state of New York.

JAMES MADISON's election is advocated by no *Federal* newspaper, but it is advocated by almost every *Republican* newspaper out of the state of New York, and several in it.

DE WITT CLINTON's health and success as a candidate for the Presidency has never been drank even as a vo-

lunteer toast, at any public dinner, no not even in the state of New York, in the overflowings of the heart upon great and joyful occasions.

JAMES MADISON's health and re election was among the regular toasts, and was drank with acclamations all over the Union on the birth day of our National Independence.

These, fellow citizens, are powerful, and are not to be mistaken indications of public sentiment all over the Union, and have proceeded from various and dissimilar, but all associations of republican citizens. It would be a waste of words and time to use any in shewing how infinitely superior are the recommendations of Mr. Madison, and how much stronger the evidence of public opinion in his favor than any which either has been, or can be adduced in favor of Mr. Clinton. Upon the ground of nomination, Mr. Clinton is as fairly and completely distanced as the most anxious friend of Mr. Madison could desire.

There is an apparent invidiousness in comparing the public services, claims and qualifications of candidates, which this committee would willingly have avoided, but the address of the New York committee forces it upon us by the manner, any thing but modest, in which Mr. Clinton is characterized.

DE WITT CLINTON has been a member of the legislature of *New York*.

For a short season a Senator of the *United States*.

And is now lieutenant governor of the state of *New York*.

A major general of the militia of *New York*,

And mayor of the city of *New York*.

Mr. Clinton may have filled all those situations with ability, and thus been a useful citizen of New York ; but his usefulness has been confined to that state. He was so short a time upon the national floor, that the nation know him not ; the nation have not tried, proved and found him honest and capable. If the citizens of New York have so found him, who can wonder at their zeal to promote him to a more exalted station ? But if the citizens of New York are praiseworthy because grateful for services rendered, shall the nation be suspected of being less sensible, less grateful, and of entertaining a disposition to cast off an old, a faithful, honest and capable servant, only to take one upon trust, and to afford "somewhat of personal gratification" to the committee who recommend him. The very expectation is a libel upon the Union. It is one which their votes will put to shame, and which their zeal in favor of Mr. Madison will prove unfounded.

The New York Committee themselves confess that they felt "much restraint and embarrassment," anticipated "harsh animadversions," were fearful of being considered "as innovators," of being "stigmatized as presumptuous," of their conduct being "imputed to unworthy motives," and of being "opposed with bitter-

ness by many," in consequence of their recommendation of Mr. De Witt Clinton. If such were the apprehensions of the gentlemen who assure us "of the *superior* worth and qualifications of their candidate," and whose zeal in his behalf was stimulated by the hope of "somewhat of personal gratification," how can it have been possible that they could hope to interest the feelings, and win the good opinions and votes of millions who never heard of Mr. Clinton until they are clamorously called upon to raise him to the chief magistracy of the Union.

JAMES MADISON has been a member of the legislature
Of *Virginia*, of the *Old Congress*,
Of the Convention which framed the constitution of the *United States*,
Of the Convention of *Virginia* which ratified that constitution,
And of *Congress* for several sessions, and
Secretary of State of the *United States*,
And is now President of the *United States*.

No man of character, who respects himself, whatever be his party, prejudices or prepossessions, will have the hardihood to affirm but what in all those stations, Mr. Madison has conducted himself with integrity, patriotism, and the most distinguished ability. His speeches on the floor of Congress were equally admired for the correctness of their principles, and the chastity of their style. His correspondence, while Secretary of State, and his instructions to our foreign ministers, particularly upon the subject of the impressment of our seamen, are among the ablest state papers, and the best defence of neutral rights, which modern times have produced. The firm, impartial and dignified course of his administration has commanded respect and admiration where it has failed to secure esteem, or enforce justice. The messages of the President of the United States are illustrations of the genuine principles of representative democracy, and evince their author to be a great constitutional lawyer, a profound public jurist, well read in the law of nations, intimately acquainted with the rights and wrongs of his country, able to defend the one and avenge the other; in a word, Mr. Madison is the author of the super-eminent excellent exposition of the unjust and intolerable conduct of Great Britain towards the United States, which was presented to Congress on the first of June, and which greatly contributed to determine that body to appeal to arms, and "commit a just cause into the hands of the Almighty Disposer of events," as the only untried means to maintain the rights, the honor and independence of the country. This committee have pleasure in concurring with the New York committee in the declaration that "Mr. Madison has passed through a life of honor and public services." His principles are known, his course of politics certain. His "life" and official conduct are his pledges. In voting for him we know for whom, and for what we are voting. We put nothing to hazard; for him, therefore, fellow-citizens, let us vote.

The New York Committee urge no personal objections against the President of the United States, save only his having been born

in Virginia. Had he the fortune to have been born in Great Britain, the committee could not have manifested more solicitude, apprehension and concern at the prospect of his re-election. The objections against Mr. Madison, as a candidate for the Presidency, are stated, on public grounds to be ;—the non-interception of the Jamaica fleet, which the committee say “escaped capture by some negligent delay at Washington ;” and the committee express doubts whether Commodore Rodgers knew any thing about the fleet, unless he “accidently heard of it at sea.”

To this charge the answer is furnished by Commodore Rodgers himself, who in his official despatch, declares that he had heard of the Jamaica fleet “*previous* to his leaving New York on the 21st of June,” on which day he was joined “by the United States, Congress, and Argus,” and that his orders were under date of the 18th of June, *the very day* on which the bill declaring war had passed the Senate, in which house it had been delayed, *by the advocates of Mr. Clinton*, so long as to permit the Jamaica fleet to escape capture.

Again, the New York Committee complain that we have not an army “attacking the Floridas at the same time” that we have an army marching against Canada.

This charge also lies against *the advocates of Mr. Clinton*, who contrived to have the bill which had passed the House of Representatives for “attacking the Floridas,” negatived in the Senate, thus compelling the President to withdraw the United States’ troops which were in the Floridas, and prohibiting him from marching others against them. We should be gratified to believe that the New York Committee were unacquainted with these facts, but their opportunities forbid this conclusion, and compel us, however unwillingly, to consider the charges as “a measure of electioneering policy.”

The “permission to carry on trade with Spain and Portugal,” is vehemently urged by the New York Committee against the re-election of Mr. Madison, although the committee must have known that the “permission” did not originate with the President, but was a measure of Congress. It is passing strange to hear the advocates of the “commercial interests of the Union” railing against the President, because Congress did not hermetically seal all the ports of the Union. Such reasoning may be “judged cunning,” but it is certainly neither candid nor convincing.

We have thus, fellow-citizens, submitted to your judgment the arguments and reasons given by the friends of Mr. Clinton, why he should be elected President of the United States ; and we have replied to them as briefly as we could, and with a fairness which we think will not be questioned, even by those who differ from us in opinion. The unexpected and unavoidable length to which the address of the New York Committee has led us, prevents us from detailing many sound and cogent reasons in favor of the candidate whom your representatives, in the state legislature, and in Congress, agreed to support.

The gentleman who is nominated by the democratic party as Vice-President, is Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, a citizen of distinguished talents, integrity, and republican principles, well

known from his public services and qualifications. He was before the revolution a member of the legislature of Massachusetts. At the dawn of that momentous era he was elected one of the committee of public safety and supply—he was a member of the old Congress, and voted for and signed the declaration of independence. He was a member of the convention that framed the constitution of the United States; has been minister to the French republic, and Governor of Massachusetts. The duties attached to all which stations he discharged with fidelity and advantage to his country.

James Madison and *Elbridge Gerry*, as candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency, are citizens so known, so respected, so esteemed, throughout the United States, that the mention of their names in any company from Maine to Georgia, and from the Atlantic to the Lakes, would call forth merited panegyric, and interesting recollections of important public events in which they have borne distinguished parts.

For such men Pennsylvania will vote, because such are the men whom it delighteth her to honor.

In conformity to usage, this Committee have taken the usual means to ascertain that all the candidates placed upon the Electoral Ticket will vote for James Madison as President, and Elbridge Gerry as Vice-President, of the United States. From some of the Committees we have heard, and from some we daily expect to hear. All the electors from whom we have heard, have cheerfully declared their determination to vote for the above gentlemen for the offices designated. We hope hereafter to give you the necessary assurances in the name of all the candidates for whom your suffrages are solicited.

With sentiments of respect and high consideration, we have the honor to subscribe ourselves,

Your Fellow-Citizens.

JACOB HOLGATE,
JOHN BINNS,
JOHN GEYER,
JOHN PORTER.

Committee-Room,

Philadelphia, Sept. 16, 1812.

PENNSYLVANIA ELECTORAL TICKET.

Charles Thompson,
Paul Cox,
Joseph Engle,
James Fulton,
John Whitehill,
Hugh Glasgow,
Samuel Smith,
Nathaniel Michler,
James Mitchel,
Clement Paine,
Henry Alshouse,
Abia Minor,

David Mitchel,
Isaac Worrell,
Michael Baker,
Isaiah Davis,
Edward Crouch,
David Fullerton,
Robert Smith,
Charles Shoemaker,
John Murray,
Arthur Moore,
James Stevenson,
David Meade,

Adamson Tannehill.



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JAN

1989

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